

February 11, 2022

'We inspire competence, character and compassion'

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Some of February's happenings and reminders in this newsletter:

					
Valentine's Day	Olympics	Pink Shirt Day	Staffing Update	Moving?	Dogs on Grounds

Principal Message:

Since the return from the winter break, students and staff adapted to new changes around Covid-19 safety protocols. We would like to thank all students, families and staff for their understanding and support as we endeavour to have our schools remain a safe and healthy learning environment for all. Thank You!



VALENTINE'S DAY February 14th: **Pink**, **Red** and **White** Day



This month our character focus is Kindness, Compassion and Empathy. Students are invited to wear Valentine colours, exchange cards, earn Caught being and doing KIND acts and participating in a variety of classroom activities that celebrate the virtues of Valentines, being a good friend and citizen.

Catching the Olympic Spirit!



In the spirit of the 2022 Winter Olympics, Ms. Weller has planned a variety of Olympic Activities for students during their PE classes. All classes have chosen a country to represent and will engage in friendly competition games to earn points. The winning class will then earn either a Sundae Party or the thrill of throwing a cream pie at her face.

Following the Olympic Theme gym classes, students will then begin their Skipping Unit to coincide with Jump Rope for Heart to raise awareness of the importance of a healthy heart and to raise money for the BC Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Reminders:

Thursday, February 17 – Early Dismissal at 11:30am

Friday, February 18 – Non-Instructional Day (All Schools are Closed)

Monday, February 21 – Family Day (All Schools are Closed)



Pink Shirt Day: February 23, 2022



Each year we join with people across Canada and around the globe to raise awareness about bullying, kindness & friendship by participating in Pink Shirt Day. Check out www.pinkshirtday.ca for more information about Pink Shirt Day; its origin, available resources, and ways to donate towards anti-bullying programs.



Students are encouraged to **Wear a PINK Shirt** on **Wednesday February 23, 2022**

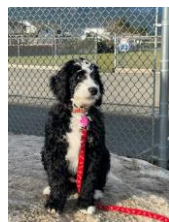
Thank you to our wonderful PAC for providing our students with a hot dog and fudge bar on this day!

Change of Address/Moving?

If you are an observer like us, you may be noticing an increasing number of houses with for sales signs placed in yards around the neighbourhood. If you will be moving, please contact the office so we can prepare records for your child for when they will be registering at their new school. For families who may be considering a move residence or schools, please let your child's classroom teacher and/or the office know that there may be a change for your family on the horizon.



Meet Miss Molly



Mrs. Wellwood added a new family member, Miss Molly, who is an Australian Bernedoodle. Miss Molly will be trained to become a Therapy Dog and will be visiting the school from time to time. Students are excited to have a new friend join our community. Welcome Miss Molly!



School Grounds

Please remember that part of our District's Safety Protocols, schools are closed campuses during school hours, meaning guests need to check in at the office if arriving outside of regular drop off or pick-up times. Morning supervision starts at 8:05 am and the afternoon supervision wraps up at 2:37 pm.

Students wishing to play on the playground must be supervised by an adult or have gone home and have had their parent's permission to return to the school playground.

Staff Update:

It is never easy to say Good-bye to staff members, especially those who have been part of the Strathcona Community for many years. Farewell to Lauren Barirani who will join the Langley School District and Michelle Downing who will be moving to Blind Bay, BC. Although, we are sad you will no longer be with us, we are happy and excited for you as you begin your new adventure! We hope you keep in touch. ☺

Please join us in welcoming Amrit Kaur who will be working as one of our Lunch Hour Supervision Assistants!



Is it a Conflict or Bullying?

All schools have a **zero tolerance** for bullying behaviour. If a bullying situation occurs, measured steps to address the situation will swiftly be taken. At Strathcona, we take student safety and acceptance seriously. Conflict and disagreements are natural part of life and learning.

As a school and staff, not only do we model, teach, and encourage acceptance and inclusivity, but we value our diversity. Diversity in learning styles, successes, needs as well as diversity in everyone's strengths and weaknesses. In fact, instead of viewing a need or difference as a weakness, we see them as a learning opportunity either for us to learn more about the individual or for the student as an area needing further support and growth. We work with students to solve any disagreements or conflicts that may arise in a positive manner and develop their understanding of the difference between a problem, a conflict and bullying. As well as positive ways for solving an issue that arises for them.



Throughout the years, various peer conflicts or moments of unkindness have frequently become synonymous with the term "bullying". It is important for students to recognize and understand what the terms disagreement, conflict and bullying mean. Each of term reflects distinctively different experience and it is important to distinguish the difference while equipping students with the skills and tools to deal with conflict as they arise, either by seeking help or by solving the issue on their own.

Unkindness: inconsiderate, unfriendly, mean, or harsh behaviour.

Conflict: a disagreement or argument that can also be known as a struggle; it often occurs as a struggle between two or more people who perceive having incompatible goals or desires.

Peer Conflict: a mutual disagreement between peers; not necessarily a bad thing as disagreement or conflict is part of life and children/people need to develop their skills and knowledge of ways to resolve disagreements or problems.

Bullying: an act by a person who purposely targets or focusses on someone else where he or she uses strength or power to target someone (often frequently) to cause them harm or to intimidate those who are weaker and typically force him or her to do what they want.

Conflicts are a natural occurrence in life as people interact with one another. Not everyone will agree 100% of the time or have the same viewpoint. As a school we strive develop students' capacity and skills to independently, proactively, and positively deal with conflicts that arise for them and work with families to support this endeavor.

There are many websites that families can visit to find information around empowering your child and ways to deal with conflict and/or bullying behaviour.

Some that you may wish to visit are:

www.kidsnowcanada.org/conflict-resolution/

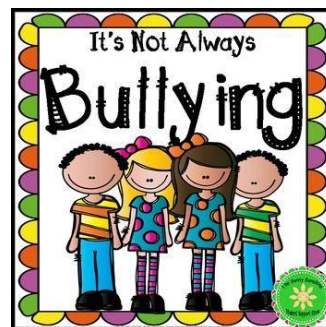
www.witsprogram.ca/

www.preynet.ca

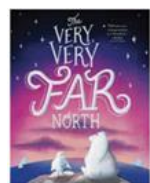
www.selfesteem.dove.ca/Bullying

www.erasebullying.ca

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sco/resources.htm



Dogs on School Grounds



Jump Rope for Heart

February 22nd - 25th Coin Drive

Tuesday: Dimes

Wednesday: Quarters

Thursday: Loonies

Friday: Toonies

February 28th – March 4th

All Coin, Cash and Online Donations



Triple Ball Team



Hat Day



Snow Day



One School, One Book – Dress Like a Character Day

